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Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation
among Developing Countries
Second session
Geneva, 14 November 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD Secretariat

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committee of the Trade and Development states that: "At the commencement of the first meeting of each regular session, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. In electing the officers, due account shall be taken of the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution". Moreover, rule 19 indicates that " the Bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended".

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above was approved by the Standing Committee at its first session (11 to 15 January 1993).[1] As provided for in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, the Standing Committee will have available five working days from 14 to 18 November 1994. At the first meeting, on 14 November 1994, an opening statement will be made by the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD or his representative, followed by the introduction of items 3 and 4 and the general debate on those items. It is suggested that the rest of Monday 14 November and Tuesday 15 November 1994 be devoted to discussions under item 3 of the agenda. Items 4 and 5 of the agenda may be discussed as from Wednesday 16 November and discussions on them could continue until the end of the morning session of Thursday 17 November. Thereafter time should be allowed for the preparation of the draft report in all United Nations official languages to be submitted to the plenary on Friday 18 November 1994. Throughout the session, interpretation facilities will be made available in all United Nations official languages in accordance with normal practice.

Item 3: Strengthening subregional and regional integration and fostering interregional cooperation, as well as promotion and expansion of trade among developing countries

With a view to assisting the Standing Committee in its deliberations on this item, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Strengthening subregional and regional integration and fostering interregional cooperation, as well as promotion and expansion of trade among developing countries" (TD/B/CN.3/8). The report is divided in three chapters: chapter I

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[1] *Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries on its first session, held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 11 to 15 January 1993* (TD/B/39(2)/16-TD/B/CN.3/5, annex I).

provides an overview of policy initiatives adopted in recent years in strengthening subregional and regional integration and interregional cooperation among developing countries, including cooperation in areas such as industry, investment, money and finance, infrastructure and political matters; chapter II surveys and analyses the main problems and obstacles to the strengthening of economic integration and intra-group trade expansion; chapter III sets forth the main policy issues and recommendations for action regarding trade policies and trade-supporting services, transport, institutional set-up, and external support.

Item 4: Review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support, assistance and skill development

In order to assist the Standing Committee in its deliberations on this item, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support, assistance and skill development" (TD/B/CN.3/9). The report reviews salient recent developments since mid-1992 in the areas of South-South trade; subregional, regional and interregional economic integration and cooperation; monetary and financial cooperation; and technical assistance to ECDC.

With regard to regular consultations among the donor community, subregional, regional and interregional groupings as well as participants in ECDC programmes and projects, the first session of the Standing Committee decided that the Standing Committee shall review the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held from 27 June to 1 July 1994, with a view to identifying programmes, projects and measures for international support.[2] In accordance with this decision, the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (TD/B/CN.3/6 - TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/5) is being made available to the Standing Committee.

Item 5: Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee

In establishing the provisional agenda for its third session, the Standing Committee may wish to take into account the following considerations:

(a) In paragraph 71 of the Cartagena Commitment, it was agreed that " The standing committees should be geared to assist the Board in the effective discharge of its functions. The work and agendas of the standing committees should be organized in such a way as to attract the attendance of senior policy officials in the respective sectors". Moreover, paragraph 75 states that "The Committees will meet as often as determined by the Board, and their meetings will be of five days' duration or less";

[2]TD/B/39(2)/16-TD/B/CN.3/5, para. 42.

(b) In the UNCTAD indicative calendar of meetings for 1995, the third session of the Standing Committee on ECDC is scheduled to take place from 27 November to 1 December 1995;

(c) In the United Nations programme budget for 1994-1995, provision is made for the third session of the Standing Committee on ECDC in 1995 to consider reports on: (i) enterprise cooperation as well as monetary, financial and investment cooperation; (ii) review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support, assistance and skill development; and (iii) report to the ninth session of the Conference on the work of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries and suggestions for follow-up actions.

Item 6: Other business

Under this item, delegations may wish to raise any matter not covered under the previous items.

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee on its second session will be considered by the Trade and Development Board at the pre-sessional executive session to the second part of its forty-first session.